

Message Text

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17
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R 202202Z MAY 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
GOVGUAM
TREASURY
INFO USSAGE NKPH
CINCPAC
COGARD
BUD APEST
XMT SUVA
AMEMBASSY RANGOON

UNCLAS STATE 118042

COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: MAY 20 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. INDOCHINA

MAYAGUEZ RESCUE TOLL REVISED AGAIN. WP QUOTES DOD
SPOKESMAN THAT 5 KIA, 49 WIA, 16 MIA. PHINQ SAYS
PENTAGON OFFICIALS STATE BETWEEN 17-21 KIA, THOUGH
SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCES ONLY 5 DEATHS CONFIRMED; ADDS PRES
"FRUSTRATED" AT DOD SLOWNESS IN REPORTING HOW MANY
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KILLED. WP NOTES PENTAGON AND WH OFFICIALS DENY
EXTENT OF CASUALTIES PURPOSELY WITHHELD; QUOTES NESSEN
THAT PRCLO REP IN WASHINGTON DECLINED ACCEPT NOTE
DOS ASKED HE TRANSMIT TO CAMBODIA IN CONNECTION WITH

MAYAGUEZ SEIZURE, BUT SAME MESSAGE GIVEN PRC FONMIN IN PEKING BY BUSH. NYDN'S VOLZ REPORTS DOD ADMISSION BODIES OF SLAIN MARINES LEFT BEHIND PARTY BECAUSE EVACUATION MADE AT NIGHT UNDER FIRE. AP SAYS MARINES INVOLVED IN RESCUE ARE IN "FINAL STAGES" OF NARROWING DOWN WHAT HAPPENED TO MIA COMRADES (CHITRIB). MARINE LEADER IN RESCUE SAID BATTLE HEAVY (REUTER, NYT). USMC GEN AT SUBIC CALLS KOH TANG ASSAULT "ELIXER FOR MORALE" (WP). PHINQ'S DUBIN DOES HUMAN-INTEREST STORY ON LOCAL

FAMILY OF SLAIN MARINE WHO BELIEVE SON DID NOT DIE IN VAIN.

MAYAGUEZ SKIPPER SAYS FORCE WAS NECESSARY TO FREE SHIP AND CREW (TUOHY, LAT 5/18). QUESTIONS ON SHIP RESCUE PERSIST DESPITE BRIEFINGS, INCLUDING CASUALTY COUNT, WHY PROMPT WARNINGS NOT SENT SHIPS EVEN THOUGH SK VESSEL WAS FIRED UPON IN WATERS AND PANAMANIAN VESSEL DETAINED, WHY MARINES HIT KOH TANG WHEN BEST INFO AVAILABLE INDICATED CREW SENT TO MAINLAND, AND WHY AIR ATTACKS ON MAINLAND WERE NECESSARY (SHABECOFF, NYT). PRES ORDERS INQUIRY TO DETERMINE WHETHER FAILURE OF COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN GOVT CONTRIBUTED TO MAYAGUEZ SEIZURE; FOCUSES NEW ATTENTION ON QUESTION OF WHERE SHIPS GET WORD THAT AREA HAS BECOME POLITICALLY OR MILITARILY HAZARDOUS (JOC).

US EMBASSY REPORTS AMCITS IN SAVANNAKHET APPARENTLY FREE TO MOVE AROUND, BUT NOT LEAVE. PL TROOPS REPORTEDLY ON WAY TO TOWN (CHITRIB). STUDENT BROADCAST SAYS PL TROOPS INVITED COME SAVANNAKHET (WP). AMEMBASSY RESPONDS TO LEFT-WING STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, OFFERS "MODIFY, REDUCE OR ELIMINATE" LAOS ECON AID (AP, NYDN). LAOTIAN GOVT ANNOUNCES REGULATIONS RESTRICTING TRAVEL WITHIN COUNTRY, ABROAD, AND REQUIRING CITIZENS REGISTER WITH NATL POLICE; ASKS NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES NOT GRANT LAOTIANS ASYLUM. MOVE DESIGNED STOP FLIGHT ABROAD THAT EMBARRASSES GOVT, DAMAGES ECONOMY; SINCE MOST FLEE TO THAILAND, RTG IN EFFECT BEING ASKED UNCLASSIFIED

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FOR CONCRETE PROOF OF DESIRE COEXIST WITH LAOS (ANDELMAN, NYT). NEW DEFMIN RIGHTIST AF CHIEF, PLACES PLANES UNDER DIRECT CONTROL OF MINISTRY (AFP, NYT).

NEW CAMBODIAN GOVT OFFERS THAILAND FRIENDSHIP, DENIES DEMANDING BORDER BE PUSHED BACK HALF-MILE (UPI NYT, WP). CAMBODIAN GUNBOAT CREW THAT GRABBED MAYAGUEZ MUTINIES, THROWS COMMUNIST OFFICER OVERBOARD, SAILS TO THAILAND SEEKING ASYLUM. ARRIVAL SATTAHIP CAUSES RTG POLITICAL EMBARRASSMENT, NERVOUSNESS. CREW MEMBERS SAY WERE MEMBERS GKR NAVY PRESSED INTO SERVICE BY NEW GOVT AND 170-FT LONG BOAT USED TO INTERCEPT NUMBER OF SHIPS SAILING NEAR CAMBODIA FOR PAST SEVERAL

WKS. ISSUE KEPT QUIET IN THAILAND WHERE GOVT "TRYING TO MAKE THE BOAT DISAPPEAR," ACCORDING US OFFICIAL, BY PAINTING OVER NUMBERS, PUTTING THAI FLAG UP (GETLER, WP).

HANOI POLITBURO MEMBER PHAM HUNG EMERGES AS APPARENT SVN POLITICAL LEADER, ACCORDING US INTELLIGENCE EXPERTS, MEANING NVN PROBABLY PLANS DIRECT DEVELOPMENTS IN SVN

CLOSELY. HUNG, FROM SVN, WAS CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF HO, MOVED IN NVN IN MID-FIFTIES, ASSUMED COMMAND COSVN IN 1967. GENERALLY ASSUMED HANOI PLANS UNITE NVN, SVN EVENTUALLY; BUT FOR MOMENT, DUE TO DIFFERENT ECONOMIES, LIFE-STYLES, HAS CHOSEN GO SLOW (GWERTZMAN, NYT). SOME HANOI TOP LEADERS TOLD RALLY MARKING HO'S BIRTHDAY THAT NVN, SVN WOULD BE UNITED, SINCE HO'S ULTIMATE WISH (AP, SUN). MEXICO ANNOUNCES DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH NVN, BUT NO DATE SET FOR EXCHANGE AMBASSADORS (WP).

SAIGON CELEBRATES HO'S BIRTHDAY WITH PARADES, FIRECRACKERS, DRAGON DANCE. SOLDIERS ORDERED NOT BUY BLACK-MARKET ITEMS (UPI, PHINQ). HOUSEBREAKING, ROBBERY MOUNTING RAPIDLY IN SAIGON. BREAKDOWN OF LAW, ORDER, WORRIES COMMUNIST AUTHORITIES (CSM; REUTER, NYT). ACCUSED THIEF PUBLICLY EXECUTED BY VC IN PROV CAPITAL NEAR SAIGON (UPI, WP). APPARATUS OF WESTERNIZATION FADING IN SVN BECAUSE OF EDICTS, NEW ATTITUDES, SHORTAGE OF MATERIALS. FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS GONE, ALL SAIGON PAPERS CLOSED WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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ONLY 1 OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED THAT DOES NOT OFFER SENSATIONAL STORIES OR HOROSCOPES AND LOVE SERIALS VIETS ENJOY. RADIO IS MOSTLY REVOLUTIONARY SONGS; TV HAS GOOD DOCUMENTARIES, BUT AUDIENCES MISS US SHOWS AND TRADITIONAL OPERAS; FORMERLY UBIQUITOUS POP MUSIC HEARD LESS AND LESS; ALL CINEMAS BUT 1 CLOSED, AND THAT ONLY SHOWS "DIENBIENPHU." PEOPLE TOLD CLOTHES SHOULD BE PLAIN, SIMPLE. IMPORTS RUNNING OUT, COCA-COLA ON WAY OUT. WESTERN CULTURE IN SAIGON, WITH MERITS AND FAULTS, WILL SOON NO LONGER EXIST (MANCHESTER GUARDIAN'S WOOLLACOTT, WP). SAIGON SAYS REFUGEES FLOW HOMEWARD (AFP, NYT). GOVT RADIO SAYS PRISONERS BROUGHT BACK FROM CON SON, AND VIET NAVY SHIP THAT FLED RETURNED VOLUNTARILY (AP, NYT).

PRES CREATES ADVISORY PANEL TO RESETTLE VIET REFUGEES. DOD ANNOUNCES 4TH REFUGEE CAMP WILL OPEN AT INDIANTOWN GAP NEAR HARRISBURG, PA (UPI, CHITRIB; PHINQ; AP, SUN; NAUGHTON, NYT; MEYER, WP). ONE HUNDRED-FIFTY REFUGEES IN US HAVE ASKED RETURN SVN (AP, SUN; NAUGHTON). SEVEN REFUGEES AT PENDLETON ASK RETURN TO SVN, MOST BECAUSE FAMILIES STILL THERE (BURKE, LAT 5/18); 15,000 VIET

REFUGEES COMING TO INDIANTOWN GAP (BROWN, PHINQ).
RELIGION BECOMING INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT LIFE-SUPPORT
SYSTEM FOR REFUGEES AT PENDLETON (CHANDLER, LAT 5/19).
INS INVESTIGATES COMMERCIAL AIRLINES TO FIND OUT IF
BROUGHT ILLEGAL ALIENS FROM SVN (AP, CSM). WITNESSES
TESTIFIED TO MIXUPS IN ORPHAN AIRLIFT, WITH SOME CHILDREN
BROUGHT IN NOT ORPHANS (NYT).

2. JAPAN

FORMER PM EISAKU SATO, AGE 74 COLLAPSED EARLY MONDAY
EVENING AT TOKYO RESTAURANT. DOCTORS SAY SUFFERED
"APOPLECTIC SEIZURE." REMAINS AT RESTAURANT IN SERIOUS
CONDITION IN COMA. WAS TO MEET DEPT PM TAKEO FUKUDA,
JAPANESE BUSINESS LEADERS AT RESTAURANT (AP, NYT,
CHITRIB, PHINQ; WP). AP PHOTO IN SUN OF "NOBEL
LAUREATE" SATO.

POLICE TUESDAY ARRESTED EIGHT SUSPECTED MEMBE OF ANARCHIST
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EAST ASIA ANTI-JAPANESE ARMED FRONT. LINKED TO
MITSUBISHI HEAVY INDUSTRY BOMBING AUG 30 LAST YEAR,
THAT KILLED SEVEN, WOUNDED 289. SUSPECT, NODAKA SAITO,
COLLAPSED DURING QUESTIONING, DIED THREE HOURS LATER.
POLICE SAID ATTEMPTED SUICIDE BY BITING TONGUE, OR
TAKING POISON (UPI, PHINQ). IDEOLOGICAL MENTOR OF
GROUP, RYO OTA, ESCAPED ARREST (NYT). GROUP INCLUDES
TWO WOMEN (SUN).

FOREIGN INVESTMENT COUNCIL RECOMMENDS TO MOF COMPLETE
LIBERALIZATION OF DIRECT INVESTMENT IN DISTRIBUTION
SECTOR, INCLUDING 100 PERCENT FOREIGN OWNERSHIP, UNLIMITED
NUMBER OUTLETS. GOJ EXPECTED APPROVE; WOULD TAKE EFFECT
JUNE 1 (WSJ, TOKYO).

MITSUBISHI OIL REPORTED 85.8 MILLION DOL DEFICIT
SECOND HALF JFY 74. OWNED NEARLY 50 PERCENT BY GETTY
OIL. BLAMED MASSIVE LEAK AT MIZUSHIMA REFINERY
FOR LARGE DEFICIT (AP, CHITRIB).

JOC (TOKYO) SAYS JAPANESE SECURITIES FIRMS SLOW DOWN
SALE OF TWO-MONTH TREASURY BONDS TO OVERSEAS BUYERS,
TO CURB YEN SPECULATION BY MEANS SHORT-TERM ARBITRAGE
OPERATIONS MAINLY BY US COMMERCIAL, INVESTMENT BANKS.

3. KOREA

KCNA BROADCAST MONDAY STATED US INSPIRES PARK'S ANTI-
COMMUNIST DRIVE; US OFFICIALS SAY "WOULD NOT HESITATE"
USE NUKES IN KOREA IF NECESSARY; AND US "BOASTING" OVER
MAYAGUEZ RESCUE IS "LAST DITCH EFFORT OF THOSE FALLING

INTO DECAY." DOS' FUNSETH COMMENTS "THAT'S NONSENSE"
(AP, SUN; WP).

WP CITES YOMIURI REPORT KIM IL-SUNG TOLD JAPANESE
VISITOR NK ARMY ENGAGED IN ALL OUT EFFORT HELP RICE
PLANTING, COULD NOT AFFORD GO SOUTH.

KCNA BROADCAST MONDAY SAID SIHANOUK WARMLY GREETED BY
KIM IL-SUNG, TENS OF THOUSANDS OF WORKERS IN PYONGYANG
AS "GOOD WILL ENVOY OF HEROIC CAMBODIAN PEOPLE" WHO
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WON VICOTRY IN STRUGGLE AGAINST US AGGRESSION (AP, NYT).

OBERDORFER (WP) IN SEOUL SAYS KIM CHI-HA WENT ON TRIAL
FOR LIFE MONDAY, SECOND TIME IN LESS THAN YEAR, FOR
VIOLATING ANTI-COMMUNIST LAW BY ASSERTING GOVT FRAMED
EIGHT PRP MEMBERS HANGED LAST MONTH. TIGHTLY-BOUND
KIM CHALLENGED COMPETENCE CHIEF JUDGE TO CONDUCT FAIR
TRIAL. JUDGE RECESSED TRIAL WITHOUT RULING ON PLEA,
OR SETTING DATE FOR RESUMPTION (ABRIDGED IN PHINQ).

KOREA U RESUMED CLASSES MONDAY, 41 DAYS AFTER TROOPS
MOVED ONTO CAMPUS TO HALT ANTI-GOVT PROTESTS. ABOUT
200 STUDENT LEADERS EXPELLED UNDER GOVT PRESSURE
(REUTER, SEOUL).

KCNA REPORTED MONDAY NK, BURMA AGREED ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS (REUTER, NYT).

GAYLORD SHAW (LAT 5/17) NOTES DORSEY ADMISSION GULF
PAID SK POLITICIANS 4 MILLION DOLS UNDER TABLE; LATEST
IN "TORRENT OF REVELATIONS" ABOUT BRIBES, SECRET
PAYMENTS OVERSEAS BY US FIRMS.

4. THAILAND

RTG MONDAY ACCEPTED AS FORMAL US APOLOGY NOTE THAT "RE-
GRETTS THE MISUNDERSTANDINGS" LAST WEEK WHEN MARINES SENT
INTO THAI BASE WITHOUT CONSULTATION; RTG SPOKESMAN SAYS
"CASE CLOSED" (WSJ). CHATICHAI TELLS PRESS KEY TO AC-
CEPTANCE OF NOTE AS APOLOGY RTG DEMANDED WAS LANGUAGE
THAT US POLICY CONTINUES ONE OF "RESPECTING THE SOVEREIGN-
TY AND INDEPENDENCE OF THAILAND" (UPI, NYDN).

BROWNE (NYT) CITES CHATICHAI TELLING PRESS, IN VIEW US
APOLOGY, THAI AMBASSADOR CALLED HOME FOR "ONLY FEW DAYS"
CONSULTATION, AND THAILAND WILL WORK HARMONIOUSLY WITH
US OFFICIALS. KUKRIT EXPRESSES SATISFACTION WITH US NOTE;
TELLS PRESS, "WE SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY MORE TROUBLE" WITH
US (PALLING, WP; ALSO IN PHINQ). TREWHITT (SUN) NOTES
DOS' FUNSETH DECLINED CHARACTERIZE US NOTE AS APOLOGY,

SAID "WE PRESENTED THE NOTE AND THEY HAVE ACCEPTED IT."
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RTG MOVES TOWARD IMPROVED TIES WITH CAMBODIA WITH RECEIPT OF PP CABLE SAYING KR WILLING NORMALIZE TIES, DENYING REPORTS CAMBODIA HAS DESIGNS ON THAI TERRITORY. RELATIONS WITH SAIGON FRAYED WHEN FIRST VC DIPLOMATIC MISSION TO BANGKOK SAID US WITHDRAWAL PRE-CONDITION FOR

NORMALIZATION, AND THAIS MUST HAND OVER PLANES FLOWN IN BY SVIETS. RTG SPOKESMAN "HEATEDLY DESCRIBED" VC POSITION AS "INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS" (AP, CHITRIB).

5. CHINA

WIDE COVERAGE GIVEN MONDAY'S ENDING OF TWO-DAY PRC-US TRACK MEET IN CANTON. PHOTOS SHOW ATHLETES OF BOTH COUNTRIES JOINING HANDS FOR FINAL LAP AROUND TRACK (UPI, WP; AP, NYT). AP (CANTON) REPORTS EVENT ENDED ON NOTE OF INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP, CAMARADERIE; AMERICANS, "WITHOUT BEING UGLY," LITERALLY RIPPED UP PLACE, WINNING ALL 17 OF MONDAY'S EVENTS, WINDING UP FESTIVAL WITH 31 VICTORIES IN 32 EVENTS. BUT CHINESE NOT VEXED, WERE DELIGHTED; 10,000 CHEERED WILDLY AFTER EVERY US VICTORY, AND VISITORS GIVEN ROUSING FAREWELL (NYT, SUN, PHINQ). WASHINGTONIAN, ARLINGTONIAN WON EVENTS (UPI, WP; AP, NYT).

WP'S LARDNER REPORTS CIA SURREPTITIOUSLY OPENED INCOMING MAIL FROM PRC FOR WEEKS AT A TIME IN 1969, 1971, DESPITE CONCENTRATED EFFORT BY US POSTAL INSPECTORS TO PREVENT TAMPERING.

CANADIAN TERRITORIAL GOVT ANNOUNCES PRC DELEGATION WILL VISIT NW TERRITORIES NEXT MONTH TO STUDY ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN PERMAFROST AREAS (AFP, WP). TEN-MEMBER DELEGATION OF SWISS UNION OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ARRIVED IN PEKING BY AIR MONDAY, ACCORDING NCNA (AFP, WP).

6. INDONESIA

CSM'S MCBRIDE WRITES OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, QUOTES CARMEL BUDIARDJO THAT 100,000 BEING HELD WITHOUT TRIAL.
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MRS BUDIARDJO RELEASED FROM JAIL IN 1971, IS MAKING LECTURE TOUR OF US, FOLLOWING TOURS IN UK, AUSTRALIA, TO AROUSE PUBLIC PRESSURE, INTEREST IN RELEASE.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

7. INDOCHINA

WESTINGHOUSE'S MACLEISH (WP) CITES MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT'S "NEW, SOBERING CASUALTY LIST"; ASKS: HOW MANY OF DEAD, MISSING, WOUNDED DO WE ASSIGN TO RESCUING SHIP AND CREW, AND HOW MANY TO BOLSTERING DOCTRINE OF AMERICAN UNPREDICTABILITY? (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

ACCORDING ANDERSON/WHITTEN (WP), PRES FORD WENT AGAINST

ADVISE OF HIS LAWYERS IN ORDERING MAYAGUEZ RESCUE; TOOK, INSTEAD JCS OPINION THAT SHIP COULD BE RESCUED (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

SUN (5/18) OBSERVES LOS-AGREED PRINCIPLE THAT TERRITORIAL SEA OF COASTAL NATIONS WILL EXTEND 12 MILES; SUGGESTS HAD LOS CONFERENCE NOT LAGGED YEAR BEHIND SCHEDULE , MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT WOULD NOT HAVE OCCURRED -- BECAUSE US WOULD NOT HAVE CONSIDERED LOCATION INTERNATIONAL WATERS (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

GARRY WILLS (WSTAR 5/19) FINDS MUCH TRUTH IN GRAHAM GREENE'S 1955 NOVEL ("THE QUIET AMERICAN") WHICH PREDICTED VN MESS (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

KILPATRICK (SUN) LAUDS FORD'S RESOLUTE HANDLING OF MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT; SEES IT BOOSTING NATIONAL MORALE, SPIT IN COMMUNISTS' EYE, AND INCIDENTALLY PROMOTING PRES' OWN POLITICAL FORTUNES (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

NYT'S WICKER VOICES THANKS THAT SOME OF FUROR OVER ADMISSION VN REFUGEES SEEMS TO HAVE SUBSIDED (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

LAT'S CONINE (5/18) SEES MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT PROVIDING UNCLASSIFIED

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ADMIN EXCELLENT, COMPARATIVELY LOW-COST OPPORTUNITY TO SEND MESSAGE TO SOVIET, PRC, NK AND ARABS THAT NEITHER UNDIGNIFIED RETREAT FROM VN NOR CONGRESSIONAL ISOLATIONIST VOICES HAS DEPRIVED PRES OF POWER AND WILL TO ACT FIRMLY, DECISIVELY WHEN OCCASION DEMANDS.

WP (5/18) SEES DETENTION OF AMCITS IN SAVANNAKHET DEMONSTRATING HOW SPECIAL AND LIMITED MEANING OF MAYAGUEZ AFFAIR IS; LAOS STILL AMONG VERY LARGE GROUP OF COUNTRIES WHERE US CANNOT SEND IN MARINES AT WILL -- WHERE, AS IN MOST PLACES, "REALITY IS COMPLICATED" (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

LESLIE (LAT 5/18) IN VIENTIANE OBSERVES STILL NOT CLEAR

WHAT PL PLAN DOING WITH THEIR CONTROL COALITION GOVT.
BETTING IS COALITION WILL CONTINUE, SINCE SYMBOLIZES
LAOS' SUCCESS IN ENDING ITS CONFLICT PEACEFULLY AS
OPPOSED-TO CAMBODIA, VN, AND COALITION PROVIDES PRETEXT
FOR ACCEPTING US, OTHER WESTERN AID. IN FOLLOW-UP
(5/19), LESLIE SAYS NOT CLEAR TO US OFFICIALS WHETHER
NEW LAO GOVT STILL QUALIFIES FOR AMERICAN AID. US MUST
ALSO CONSIDER HUMANITARIAN IMPLICATIONS OF ENDING
ASSISTANCE -- AID STILL EMPLOYS MORE THAN 2,000 LAOTIANS
WHO WOULD BE SUDDENLY THROWN OUT OF WORK IF HELP ENDED,
AND IMPACT ON COUNTRY'S ECONOMY WOULD BE SEVERE. FINDS
8. CHINA

LAT'S SHIRLEY SAYS LOTS OF FRIENDSHIP, NOT MUCH
COMPETITION, IN PRC-US TRACK MEET; WASN'T MUCH AS TRACK
MEETS GO, CONDITIONS MERELY ABOMINABLE. STILL, NOT
POSSIBLE ASSESS ACCURATELY CHINESE STRENGTH; STRONGLY
SUSPECTED THEY'RE NOT READY TO COMPETE ON INTERNATIONAL
LEVEL. BUT IF SUNDAY'S HISTORIC OCCASION NOT ENLIVENED
BY COMPETITION, RATED HIGH IN DRAMA, EMOTION; AND
SUCCESSFUL DAY FOR BOTH SIDES (5/20).

LAT'S ELEGANT, IN HK, SAYS PEKING "HAS JUST SIGNED THAT
CHINESE FOREIGN POLICY WILL PERSEVERE IN ITS PRESENT
TILT TOWARD THE US AND ITS FERVENT OPPOSITION" TO SOVIET,
IF IT POSSIBLY CAN. CITES RECENT PEOPLE'S DAILY EDIT
ACCUSING SOVIET OF "RUTHLESSLY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF
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AMERICAN IMPERIALISM'S CONSTANTLY INTENSIFYING WEAKNESS."
ELEGANT SEES MESSAGES OBVIOUSLY INTENDED STIFFEN US
RESOLVE AND DISCOURAGE AMERICAN NEO-ISOLATIONISM, WHILE
EXPRESSING MUCH SYMPATHY FOR US PLIGHT AND DEPLORING
US "PASSIVITY" (5/18).

TO CDN'S LISAGOR, MYSTERY SURROUNDING PRC ROLE IN
MAYAGUEZ CRISIS HAS BEEN ONLY PARTIALLY CLEARED UP
BY US. SAYS HAK SKIRTED ISSUE AT LAST FRIDAY'S
NEWS CONFERENCE. REASON FOR HUANG CHEN'S REPORTED
REFUSAL ACCEPT US NOTE TO CAMBODIANS IS NOT KNOWN;
ALSO NO EXPLANATION WHY CHINESE REJECTED SAME NOTE
FROM BUSH 24 HOURS AFTER DELIVERED TO THEM THERE.
IN MEETING WITH PRESS, HAK SEEMED DELIBERATELY TO
GLOSS OVER SEQUENCE OF EVENTS INVOLVING EFFORTS TO
ENLIST PRC HELP (BALT NA 5/19).

GERALD TANNEBAUM (NYT) OBSERVES TENG'S PRESENCE IN TANDEM
WITH CHANG CHUN-CHIAO IS THEIR ATTEMPT TO ASSURE
CONTINUATION OF MAO'S POLITICAL LINE IN DOMESTIC,
FOREIGN POLICIES (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

9. THAILAND

SOUTHERLAND (CSM) BELIEVES RTG LEADERS MAY HAVE HELPED UNLEASH TIGER BY SUPPORTING STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST US, IN VIEW OF THEIR RAPID RADICALIZATION IN RECENT MONTHS AS SHOWN BY CONSIDERABLE SYMPATHY VOICED FOR COMMUNIST VICTORIES IN CAMBODIA, VN, AND DENUNCIATION OF AMERICAN IMPERIALISM (USIA WIRELESS FILE).

LEWIS SIMONS (CHICAGO SUN TIMES 5/1) SUGGESTS THAILAND MAYBE HANOI'S NEXT DOMINO, SINCE "RIPE FOR FULL-FLEDGED INSURRECTION." THOROUGHLY CORRUPT POLITICAL, MILITARY AND POLICE OFFICIALS, ALMOST WITHOUT EXCEPTION, ACCUMULATE WEALTH, LIVE IN COMFORT IN BANGKOK WHILE IGNORING PROBLEMS OF COUNTRYSIDE. ALSO CITES WESTERN ANTI-INSURGENCY EXPERT WHO SAYS THAI ARMY NOT PREPARED TO FIGHT ASIAN GUERRILLA WAR, SINCE MOLDED BY USA, AND VN "PROVED BEYOND ALL DOUBT" US UNABLE FIGHT SUCH WAR.

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WSTAR (5/19) DISCOUNTS TALK AROUND WASHINGTON THAT RTG OPPOSED US USE OF BASES TO RESCUE MAYAGUEZ "MOSTLY FOR SHOW." WISHES THIS WERE SO, BUT BELIEVES THAIS MEAN EXACTLY WHAT THEY SAY IN ASKING US FORCES TO LEAVE (USIA WIRELESS FILE).

SUN (5/17) STATES RTG RECALL OF AMBASSADOR AFFORDS CHANCE -- IF WASHINGTON WILL USE IT -- FOR REAL RESTUDY OF US RELATIONS WITH THAILAND. WARNS RETENTION OF "RESIDUAL" US PRESENCE DESIRED BY MILITARY WOULD ERASE THAILAND'S POTENTIAL AS BUFFER AND MIGHT GRANT GROWING COMMUNIST INSURGENCY PATRIOTIC APPEAL IT NEED NOT BE GIVEN. SEES US PROBLEM ONE OF BALANCING SHORT-TERM CONVENIENCE OF HAVING BASES AGAINST POSSIBLE HARM TO THAILAND'S BEST HOPE OF HALTING INSURGENCY SHORT OF FULL-SCALE CIVIL WAR.

10. KOREA

HARSCH (CSM) QUESTIONS VALIDITY OF OLD ASSUMPTION, LEFT OVER FROM KOREAN WAR, THAT US PRESENCE ESSENTIAL TO DEFEND SK AGAINST NK -- BUT SINCE PRESENT DIVIDED SITUATION SAFEST CONDITION FOR ALL CONCERNED, SUGGESTS SHOULD BECOME SUBJECT OF DIPLOMATIC EFFORT TO GUARANTEE STATUS QUO, SIGNED BY US, JAPAN, PRC AND SOVIET (USIA WIRELESS FILE).

CSM'S GODSELL PERCEIVES STRONG STATEMENTS ON KOREA BY SECDEF OVER WEEKEND AS ANOTHER STEP FORWARD IN TWO-PRONGED ADMIN POLICY OF SHORING UP ALLIANCES IN POST-INDOCHINA PERIOD AND WARNING POTENTIAL FOES NOT UNDERESTIMATE US TOLERANCE TO BEING PUSHED AROUND.

SUN READS SECDEF VIEWS ON KOREA AS SUGGESTING SHIFT TO
HAWKISH READINESS USE US MILITARY POWER MORE MASSIVELY
THAN WAS CASE DURING VN WAR. URGES CONGRESS EXAMINE
WHETHER OTHER ALTERNATIVES EXIST TO DISCREDITED VN
STEP-BY-STEP INVOLVEMENT IF NATION IS TO HAVE MEANINGFUL
GREAT DEBATE ON POLICY AND SECURITY (USIA WIRELESS FILE).

GLOBE DEPLORES DISCLOSURES THAT SOME US CORPORATIONS
TAPPED SECRET SLUSH-FUNDS FOR QUESTIONABLE PAYMENTS,
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BRIBES OVERSEAS. BELIEVES RESENTMENTS IN LAPAZ, SEOUL

CERTAIN TO MAGNIFY MANY TIMES IF MULTINATIONALS CONTINUE
MEDDLE, AND GREATEST LOSERS IN END MAY BE GLOBAL FIRMS
THEMSELVES.

REP LEONOR SULLIVAN IN COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS AT GEORGETOWN
U CALLS FOR RE-EXAMINATION OF INTERVENTIONIST US POLICY
OVER PAST 30 YEARS; ASKS IF SK SURVIVAL FOR EXAMPLE,
"STILL OUR PROBLEM, AFTER 25 YEARS?" (WSTAR 5/19).

WSTAR (5/19) DECLARES US SECURITY INTERESTS IN EA INCLUDE
FIRMLY NON-COMMUNIST SK ON FLANK OF JAPAN, AND SKOREANS
OVERWHELMINGLY PREFER STAY OUTSIDE COMMUNIST ORBIT.
BUT WOULD BE TRAGIC IF CAUSE HURT BY PARK REGIME
INABILITY MAINTAIN SEMBLANCE OF DEMOCRATIC RESPECTABILITY
(IN USIA WIRELESS FILE). INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

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Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197505103/baaaakfx.tel
Line Count: 519
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 10
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 Sep 2003 by MorefiRH>; APPROVED <23 JAN 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR, XC, US
To: ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
HONG KONG
MOSCOW
GOVGUAM
TREASURY INFO USSAGE NKPH
CINCPAC

COGARD
BUD APEST
XMT SUVA
RANGOON

Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006